

# Studying in the Department of Social Policy at the LSE

Professor David Lewis  
Department of Social Policy



THE LONDON SCHOOL  
OF ECONOMICS AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■



Professor David Lewis

Teaching and research about public policy and international development, civil society, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the voluntary sector, the policy process, South Asia.

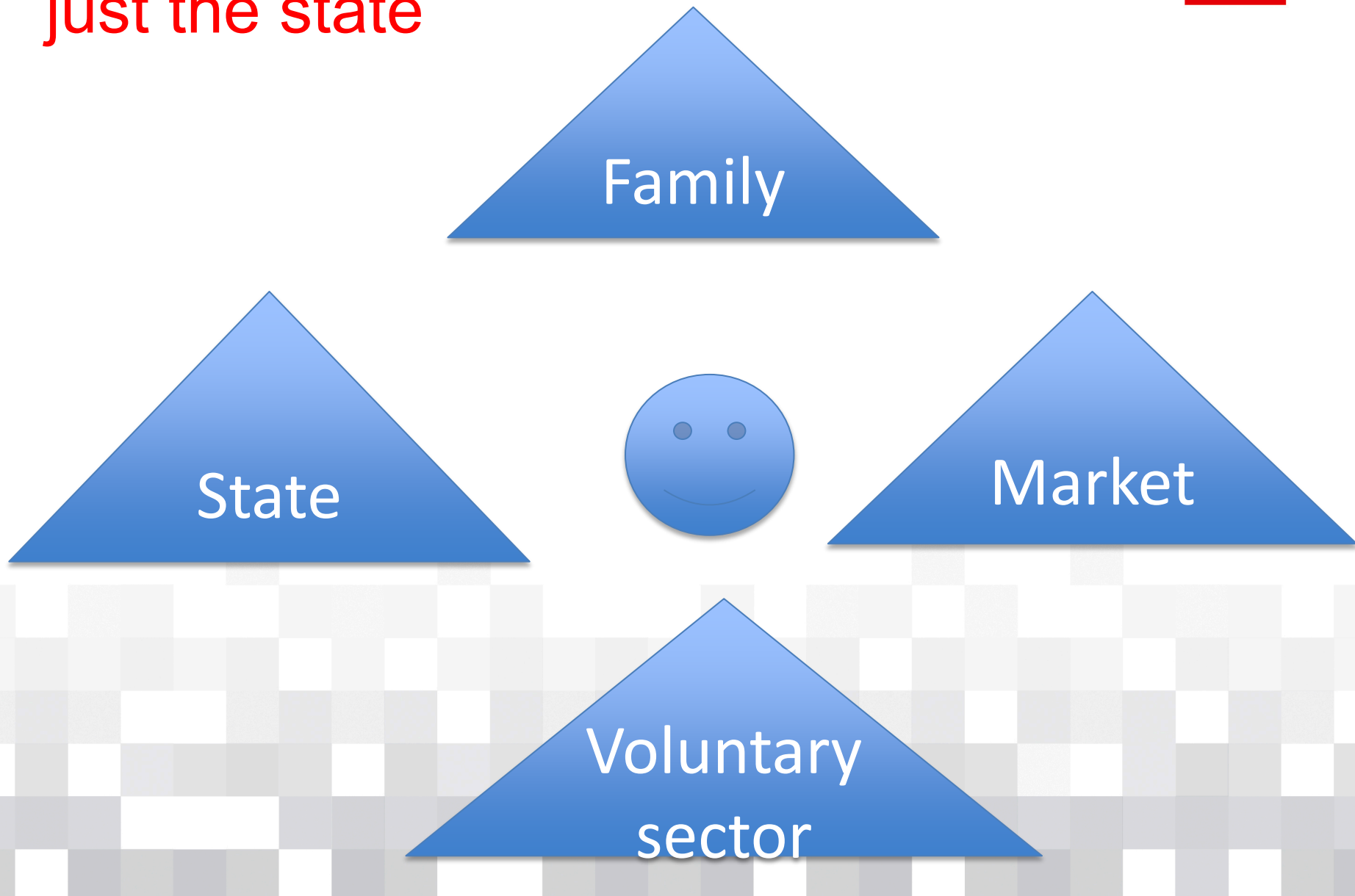
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# Overview



- What is Social Policy?
- Why Social Policy at LSE?
- BSc International Social and Public Policy (ISPP)
- Teaching and assessment
- Entry requirements
- Career destinations
- Q & A

# Wellbeing and Welfare – but not just the state



# What we focus on: welfare state pillars

## (These are all UG dissertations 2018)



### Health:

- What are the consequences of public-private partnerships in delivery of health and social care in Britain?



### Education:

- Evaluating the emergence of private schools in Tanzania



### Housing:

- Are rent controls effective in improving housing quality and affordability? The case of Berlin



### The welfare state as a whole:

- Do current social policies in Brazil measure up to the principles of the 1988 Constitution?



# What we focus on (2) Wider state activity that affects 'the good life'



## Health behaviour:

- Will the sugar tax reduce the rate of obesity in the UK?



## Work and wages:

- How far has the aim of the Equality Act of 2010 (equal pay for equal work) been achieved with regard to gender?



## Foreign aid:

- Do foreign aid policies improve the prospects of children's lives in Sub-Saharan Africa?



# A multidisciplinary approach

- **Economics**
- **Politics**
- **Sociology**
- Psychology
- Demography
- Criminology
- Development studies
- Gerontology
- History
- Anthropology

# Why Social Policy at LSE?



**The oldest Social Policy department in the country, with an important history**

- Sidney and Beatrice Webb: social reformers and co-founders of the LSE
- William Beveridge: Director of LSE 1919-37, and founder of the modern welfare state.



**The world's leading Social Policy department**

- Ranked first in 2019 QS World University Rankings (the only LSE department to achieve this)





Some recent books  
and reports by  
members of the  
department

OXFORD

## SOCIAL ADVANTAGE AND DISADVANTAGE

EDITED BY  
HARTLEY DEAN  
AND LUCINDA PLATT



OXFORD

## HOW PEOPLE JUDGE POLICING



P.A.J. Waddington, Kate Williams,  
Martin Wright, and Tim Newburn



STEPHEN P. JENKINS

## CHANGING FORTUNES

INCOME MOBILITY AND POVERTY DYNAMICS IN BRITAIN

JOHN HILLS

## GOOD TIMES



## BAD TIMES



THE WELFARE  
MYTH OF **THEM** AND **US**

## CITIES FOR A SMALL CONTINENT

International handbook of city recovery



Anne Power

## SOCIAL POLICY IN A COLD CLIMATE

POLICIES AND THEIR  
CONSEQUENCES  
SINCE THE CRISIS

EDITORS:  
RUTH LUPTON, TANIA BURCHARDT, JOHN HILLS,  
KITTY STEWART AND POLLY VIZARD

## AN EQUAL START?

Providing quality early education and care  
for disadvantaged children



Edited by Ludovica Gambero, Kitty Stewart  
and Jane Waldfogel

# BSc International Social and Public Policy



*Newly redesigned for 2019-20:*

BSc International Social and Public Policy (ISPP)

BSc ISPP with Politics

BSc ISPP and Economics

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# BSc ISPP 2019 intake



## First year

- Understanding International Social and Public Policy
- Foundations of Social Policy Research

Plus two courses from:

- Social Economics and Policy
- Sociology and Social Policy
- Politics of Social Policy Making

## Second year

- Comparative and International Social and Public Policy
- Social Research Methods
- One Social Policy option
- One outside option

## Third year

- Dissertation
- Two Social Policy options
- One outside option

# BSc ISPP with Politics



## First year

- Understanding International Social and Public Policy
- Foundations of Social Policy Research
- *Introduction to Political Theory*
- *Introduction to Political Science*

## Second year

- Comparative and International Social and Public Policy
- Social Research Methods
- One Social Policy option
- One Government option

## Third year

- Dissertation
- One Social Policy option
- One Government option
- One outside option

# BSc ISPP and Economics



## First year

- Understanding International Social and Public Policy
- Foundations of Social Policy Research
- *Economics A or Economics B*
- *Quantitative Methods (Mathematics and Statistics)*

## Second year

- Comparative and International Social and Public Policy
- Social Research Methods
- Microeconomic Principles I
- Macroeconomic Principles OR Intro to Econometrics

## Third year

- Dissertation
- Public Economics
- One Social Policy option
- One outside option

# Examples of option courses



## Second and third year options

- Education Policy
- Poverty, Social Exclusion and Social Change
- Health and Social Care Policy
- Psychology of Crime and Criminal Justice

## Third year only options

- Social Security Policies (half unit)
- Sexuality, Every Day Lives and Social Policy in Developing Countries (half unit)

At least one outside option is possible on all degree courses.



# Teaching

## Lectures and classes



### LECTURE (weekly for 20 weeks)

- Lecturer-led, some student interaction
- 1 hour, once a week
- Example – Introduction to the economics of the earnings distribution



### CLASSES (weekly for 20 weeks)

- Lecturer-facilitated, maximum student participation through discussion, tasks, presentations, etc.
- 1-1.5 hours, once a week, **COMPULSORY**
- Example – Is a minimum wage an effective method of tackling poverty?

# Contact hours beyond the classroom



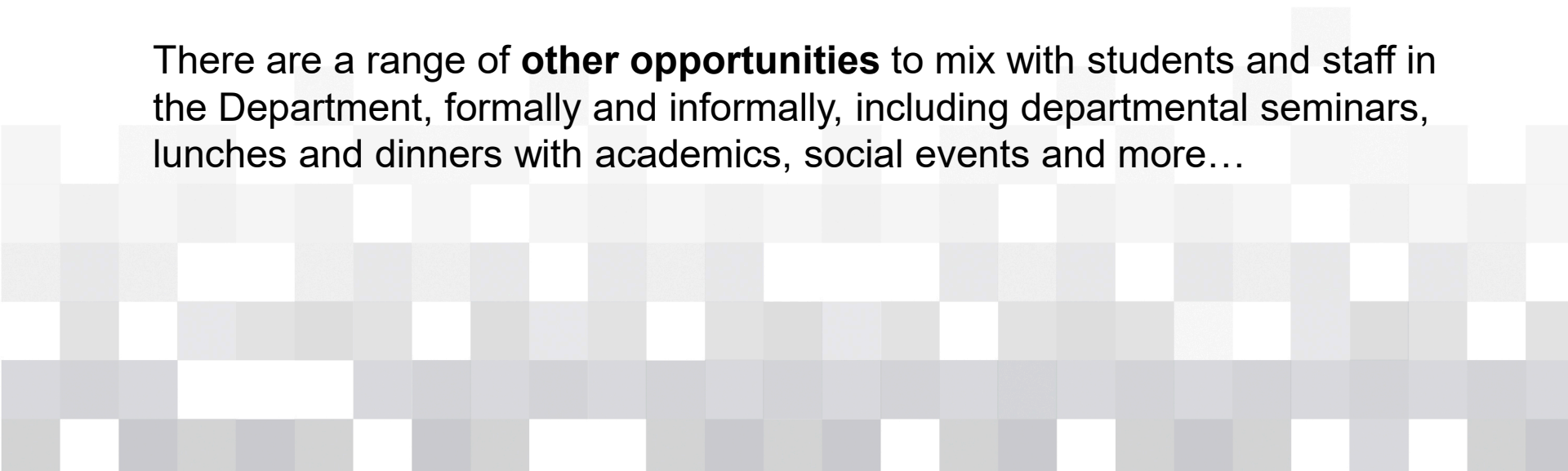
## **Academic Mentors:**

You will be assigned an academic in the Department to act as your academic advisor and to provide pastoral care and support.

## **Office Hours:**

All academic staff have 'office hours' weekly, for advice and feedback, and are always approachable and accessible at other times when needed.

There are a range of **other opportunities** to mix with students and staff in the Department, formally and informally, including departmental seminars, lunches and dinners with academics, social events and more...

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# Assessment



## Formative assessment:

- Essays, exercises, book reviews, presentations during the course of each term (varies by course)

## Summative assessment:

- A range of assessments are used across courses: summer exams, course work, book reports, blogs.
- Compulsory third year dissertation

## Your degree will be made up of nine marks:

- The average of your best 3 first year marks counts as 1
- Plus 4 second year courses
- And 4 third year courses

# Entry requirements

- Standard offer AAB  
(BSc ISPP and Economics - A in A Level Maths)
- GCSE Maths, *preferred* Grade B or above
- International Baccalaureate: Diploma with 37 points including 6 6 6 at Higher level
- Other qualifications are considered

# In UCAS application, our Admissions Tutor looks for ...

Standard offer requirements (AAB, relevant subjects)

**Personal statement** - need to demonstrate some knowledge of what social policy/criminology is, indicate passion for understanding issues e.g. social problems, how to organise welfare in one's own and other societies

Relevant extra-curricular activities, projects, reading etc.

# After LSE, what might you go on to do?

Work as a **practitioner in public services:**

Teachers, social workers, housing officers, youth workers

Work in the **civil service or local government:**

e.g. Home Office, Department for the Environment, HM Customs & Revenue

Continue with **academic study:**

MSc, PhD, Law

Work in **research for policy think tanks, charities, NGOs:**

e.g. education policy, housing policy, international development

Work for **pressure/campaign groups**

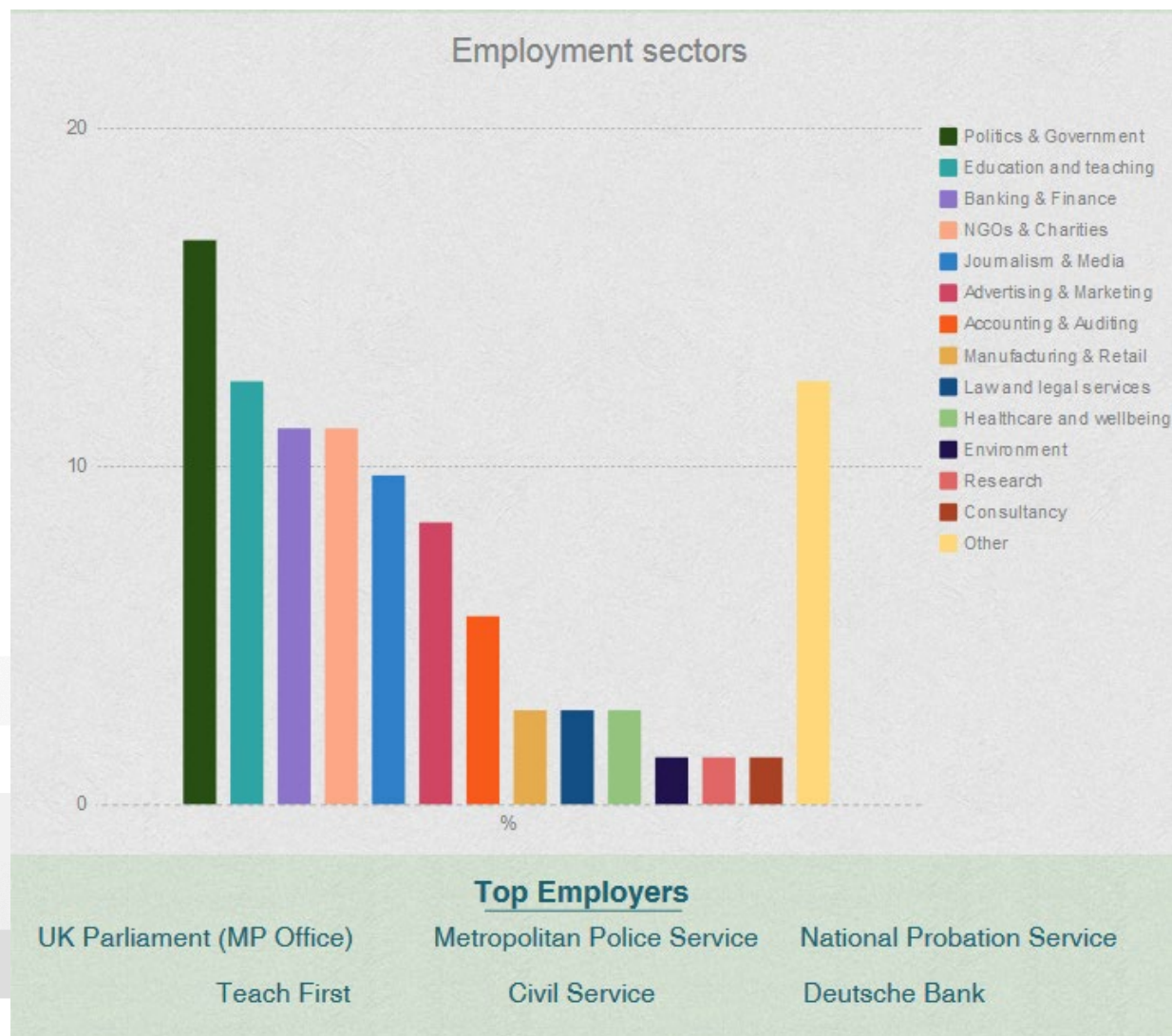
e.g. Howard League, Child Poverty Action Group, Oxfam

**Other** graduate destinations

Journalism, Finance, Accountancy



# Career destinations



# Questions???



Please feel free to email us later:

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*We hope you enjoyed the talk and consider an application to study International Social and Public Policy at LSE!*